



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

**Patrick Brewer – Board Chair, Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo
Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen, Christopher Kite, April Rose**

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Charles Vaclavik, PARD Division Manager
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist
Randy Scott, PARD Senior Planner**

**Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy
Michael Embesi, City Arborist: Planning and Development Review Department
Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department
Carl Wren, Chief Engineer, Austin Fire Department/Emergency Prevention Division**

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of January 18, 2012

The minutes for the regular meeting of 01/18/2012 were approved on Board Member Classen's motion, 2nd by Board Member Kite, passed on a 7-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Mary Ingle – Concern for Urban Forest and lack of protection of trees.

Bob Kaler – Concern about cutting mature tree @ 3000 University

David Orshalick – Proposed NW Pocket Park

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Brewer stated they are aiming to have public comments regarding the Urban Forest Comprehensive Management Program in March.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Carl Wren, Chief Engineer, Austin Fire Department, briefed the board on the Wildland Urban Interface Code.
- b. Randy Scott, PARD Senior Planner, gave a presentation to the board regarding the newly acquired properties by PARD.
- c. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Review Development Department, presented his monthly report.
- d. Keith Mars, Planning and Review Development Department, briefed the board on the 2011 Heritage Tree Report.
- e. Ray Henning, Line Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, presented his staff report and briefed the Board on the items listed below:

- a. Walter presented the Public Notification Process draft to the board.
- b. Walter briefed the Board on two trees at Barton Springs Pool, and updated them on the recommendations that were made.
- c. Walter briefed the Board on the opening of a recycle water station.
- d. Walter informed the Board of the It's My Park Day event regarding the highlighting the recycle water station opening and introduce the partnership between Tree Folks, Austin Parks Foundation, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. **Discussion and Action Item: Discussion and possible action regarding Tree Species list.**
 - a. Motion was made to postpone any action regarding the list until the next meeting to acquire more information. Motion by Board Member Fleming, 2nd by Board Member Rose, passed on a 7-0 vote.
2. **Discussion and Action Item: Discussion and possible action on cemetery tree report.**
 - a. Recommendation was made without opposition to rescind the vote by Board Chair Brewer and postpone this item until next month so that a letter to the Mayor and Council and Board Member Classen's summary report could be posted.
3. **Discussion and Action Item: UFB Annual Review**
 - a. Motion was made to approve the Urban Forestry Board Annual Review by Board Member Fleming, 2nd by Board Member Maceo, passed on a 7-0 vote.
4. **Discussion Item: Discussion of transplanting of heritage trees (diameter 24" and greater), including 2011 occurrence data, administrative review process, related mitigation issues and current lack of public review.**
 - a. Vice Chair Hayes shared with the Board information from a literature review he did on Heritage trees and his concern regarding the longevity of transplanting of large trees and what kind of data is available to prove it is a viable alternative. He also stated he has concern regarding the lack of public review. Board Chair Brewer discussed how it affects the board.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Review and take action on Cemetery Tree report and cover letter to Mayor/Council.
2. Briefing by Walter Passmore – Urban Forestry Program Manager, PARD, regarding the Hancock Golf Course transitioning.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.